

**Amendments to the Claims**

1.-44. (canceled)

**Please add the following claims:**

45. (new) A method for routing calls in a communications system, comprising:
- receiving a call object in a persistent store identifying an incoming phone call for a recipient, wherein the persistent store allows insertion of objects without loss of attributes and has a notification service;
  - translating the call object into a smart secretary object that the persistent store can operate upon;
  - identifying the recipient from the smart secretary object;
  - determining if an object exists within a community that includes the persistent store that provides preferences for the recipient;
  - if an object does not exist that provides preferences for the recipient:
    - translating the smart secretary object to a call object for a phone associated with the recipient; and
    - ringing the phone associated with the recipient; and
  - if an object does exist that provides preferences for the recipient, routing the call according to the preferences of the recipient.
46. (new) The method of claim 45, the method further comprising examining call data associated with a call to avoid routing loops.
47. (new) The method of claim 45, wherein routing the call according to preferences of the recipient further comprises:
- routing the call to a different recipient;
  - determining if an object exists that provides preferences for the different recipient;
- and

routing the call according to preferences for the different recipient.

48. (new) The method of claim 47, the method further comprising returning to the preferences of the recipient after completing the routing of the call according to the preferences of the different recipient, if there is no answer at any numbers identified by the preferences of the different recipient.
49. (new) The method of claim 45, wherein routing the call according to the preferences of the recipient further comprises routing the call sequentially to numbers identified by the preferences of the recipient.
50. (new) The method of claim 45, wherein routing the call according to the preferences of the recipient further comprises broadcasting the call to number identified by the preferences of the recipient.